WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of processing a client request for a document from a server in a data processing network, comprising:

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    determining whether the requested document is context restricted;

    responsive to determining that the requested document is context restricted, determining whether the client has access authority to the requested document; and

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    responsive to determining that the client lacks access authority, responding to the client request by returning a version of the requested document that differs from a version returned to a client having access authority.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the client has access authority includes determining whether the client has direct access authority.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the client request comprises an HTTP formatted request and further wherein determining whether the client has direct access authority includes comparing

20 state information contained in the request to a predetermined value.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the state information required to acquire direct access authority is sent to the client when the client views a document or set of documents that provide the required context for the requested document.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the client has access authority includes determining whether the client has indirect access authority.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the client request comprises an HTTP formatted request and

30 further wherein determining whether the client has indirect access authority includes determining whether the client has been referred to the requested document by a third party server.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining whether the client has been referred by a third party server comprises determining whether the value of a request header field in the client request matches at least one entry in a table of authorized referrers.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the request header field comprises a referrer header field of an HTTP request and wherein the table of authorized referrers is stored permanent storage to which the server has access.

10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein returning a version of the requested document that differs includes retrieving the requested document and running an application to insert a visibly detectable notice indicating that the requested document is being viewed out of context.

10. A computer program product comprising a sequence of instructions for processing a client
15 request for a document from a server in a data processing network, the sequence being encoded on a computer readable medium, comprising:

> computer code means for determining whether the requested document is context restricted;

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> computer code means for determining whether the client has access authority to the requested document responsive to determining that the requested document is context restricted; and

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> computer code means for responding to the client request by returning a version of the requested document responsive to determining that the client lacks access authority, wherein the version differs from a version returned to a client having access authority.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the code means for determining whether
30 the client has access authority includes code means for determining whether the client has direct access authority.

12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the client request comprises an HTTP formatted request and further wherein the code means for determining whether the client has direct access authority includes code means for comparing state information contained in the request to a predetermined value.

13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the state information required to acquire direct access authority is sent to the client when the client views a document or set of documents that provide the required context for the requested document.

14. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the code means for determining whether the client has access authority includes code means for determining whether the client has indirect access authority.

15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the client request comprises an HTTP formatted request and further wherein the code means for determining whether the client has indirect access authority includes code means for determining whether the client has been referred to the requested document by a third party server.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the code means for determining whether the client has been referred by a third party server comprises code means for determining whether the value of a request header field in the client request matches at least one entry in a table of authorized referrers.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the request header field comprises a referrer header field of an HTTP request and wherein the table of authorized referrers is stored in permanent storage to which the server has access.

18. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the code means for returning a version of the requested document that differs includes code means for retrieving the requested

document and code means for running an application to insert a visibly detectable notice indicating that the requested document is being viewed out of context.

19. A server for use in a data processing network, the server including processor and memory containing a sequence of instructions for processing a client request for a document from a server in a data processing network, the sequence being encoded on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:

    computer code means for determining whether the requested document is context restricted;

    computer code means for determining whether the client has access authority to the requested document responsive to determining that the requested document is context restricted; and

    computer code means for responding to the client request by returning a modified version of the requested document responsive to determining that the client lacks access authority, wherein the version differs from the requested document returned to a client having access authority.

20. The server of claim 19, wherein the code means for determining whether the client has access authority includes code means for determining whether the client has direct access authority.

21. The server of claim 20, wherein the client request comprises an HTTP formatted request and further wherein the code means for determining whether the client has direct access authority includes code means for comparing state information contained in the request to a predetermined value.

22. The server of claim 21, wherein the state information required to acquire direct access authority is sent to the client when the client views a document or set of documents that provide the required context for the requested document.

23. The server of claim 19, wherein the code means for determining whether the client has access authority includes code means for determining whether the client has indirect access authority.

5   24. The server of claim 23, wherein the client request comprises an HTTP formatted request and further wherein the code means for determining whether the client has indirect access authority includes code means for determining whether the client has been referred to the requested document by a third party server.

10   25. The server of claim 24, wherein the code means for determining whether the client has been referred by a third party server comprises code means for determining whether the value of a request header field in the client request matches at least one entry in a table of authorized referrers.

15   26. The server of claim 25, wherein the request header field comprises a referrer header field of an HTTP request and wherein the table of authorized referrers is stored in permanent storage to which the server has access.

27. The server of claim 19, wherein the code means for returning a modified version of the
20   requested document includes code means for retrieving the requested document and code means for running an application to insert a visibly detectable notice indicating that the requested document is being viewed out of context.